4.3.4.2.8 *Socioeconomics*

This section analyzes the socioeconomic effects of the ceramic immobilization facility for each of the candidate sites. Only the sites with the greatest socioeconomic effects are discussed. The effects at all of the candidate sites are found in the Supplemental Data Report (Socio 1996a). Socioeconomic impacts attributable to construction would be reduced if existing facilities are used for part of the ceramic immobilization operation.

Regional Economy Characteristics. Constructing the ceramic immobilization facility at any of the sites analyzed would generate employment and income increases within the affected REA. Constructing the facility would require 1,000 workers in the peak year of construction at any site. The largest increases in regional employment (about 1 percent) and regional per capita income (much less than 1 percent) would be at INEL. A total of 2,030 new jobs (1,000 direct and 1,030 indirect) would be generated and regional unemployment would fall from 5.4 percent to 4.5 percent in the INEL REA (Socio 1996a).

Operating the facility would generate greater socioeconomic changes than would construction, due to the larger, more permanent workforce. A workforce of 860 would be required for full operation at any site. Implementing the alternative at INEL would generate the largest increases in regional employment (about 2 percent) and per capita income (less than 1 percent). A total 3,167 new jobs (860 direct and 2,307 indirect) would be created by the operational activities, and regional unemployment would fall to 3.9 percent (Socio 1996a).

Population and Housing. At all of the sites analyzed, except INEL and Pantex, construction employment requirements would be met by the available resident labor force. However, some in-migrating workers would be needed to fill more specialized positions during operation. Project-related population increases would be the largest at INEL during construction of the facility. Pantex would require the largest number of in-migrating workers for operations; however, population increases in either ROI would be less than 1 percent over No Action projects.

Housing units, in excess of existing vacancies, would be required in the Pantex and INEL ROIs during construction of the project. Additional housing construction would also be required during operation at all sites analyzed, except NTS, to accommodate the in-migrating population. The greatest increase in housing requirement during both phases would be in the INEL ROI, but this would be less than 1 percent over No Action estimates. Historic housing construction rates indicate that there would be sufficient housing units available to accommodate the in-migrating population at all of the sites analyzed (Socio 1996a).

Community Services. Constructing the ceramic immobilization facility would increase demand for community services at Pantex and INEL, but not at the other sites analyzed. However, operation of the facility would slightly increase the demand for community services at all of the sites analyzed. The effects of population growth due to in-migrating workers during construction or operations on community services at any of the sites analyzed would be minor. The following discussion focuses on the INEL and Pantex ROIs where the greatest increases in demand for community services would occur.

To maintain the No Action student-to-teacher ratio of 18.5:1 in the INEL ROI, 17 new teachers would be needed during construction. The Pantex ROI would need 22 teachers to maintain the No Action student-to-teacher ratio of 16.3:1 during operation. These increases in teacher requirements, however, would be distributed over several school districts in the ROI, and no single school district would be significantly affected (Socio 1996a).

During construction, 2 police officers and 3 firefighters would be needed to maintain the No Action service levels of 1.6 police officers and 2.2 firefighters per 1,000 persons in the INEL ROI. Three additional police officers and 5 new firefighters would be needed to maintain No Action service levels of 2.3 police officers and 2.3 firefighters per 1,000 persons in the Pantex ROI during operations (Socio 1996a).

Projected hospital occupancy rates would increase slightly over No Action levels at all of the sites analyzed during operations. However projected capacities would be capable of accommodating these small increases in patient load. Two additional physicians would be needed in the INEL ROI during construction and 3 additional physicians during operation in the Pantex ROI to maintain the No Action service levels of 1.2 and 2.0 physicians per 1,000 persons, respectively (Socio 1996a).

Local Transportation. Construction of the ceramic immobilization facility would have the greatest relative effect on local transportation at INEL. A total of 1,920 vehicle trips per day would be generated during the construction of the ceramic immobilization facility. This increase would cause a drop in the level of service to two road segments in the INEL ROI. U.S. 20 from U.S. 26/91 at Idaho Falls to U.S. 26 East would change from D to E; U.S. 20/26 from U.S. 26 East to State Route 22/33 would change form B to C.

Operations at INEL would generate 1,651 vehicle trips per day. The impacts would be the same as described for the construction phase of the ceramic immobilization facility.